

beedi manufacturing units to mandatorily print the "statutory warning" on beedi packs that "smoking is injurious to health";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the specification, size etc. of the "statutory warning" that is to be printed on beedi packs; and

(d) whether it is a fact that several beedi manufacturing companies have closed down their units in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh in protest against the above order and as a result several beedi workers have been rendered jobless?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Government has notified 'the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Rules, 2006' on 5th July 2006 under the provisions of the Cigarettes and Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade & Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 which is applicable to all tobacco products including beedi.

The components of the Rules specify the manner in which the skull and bones sign, the health warning, pictorial representation of ill effects of tobacco use and the health message, would be printed on the tobacco product packets.

Considering the provisions of the Act that the health warning should be conspicuous and prominent the minimum size prescribed is 3.5 cm X 4.0 cm which also covers 50% of the principal display area of the tobacco pack. These Rules are to be effective only from 1st February, 2007.

There is no report on closure of beedi manufacturing units.

Polio eradication measures

1890. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO:
SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether alarmed by the polio situation in the country, the UN has written to the Prime Minister and WHO has shot off a letter to the Health Minister expressing concern over the persistence of polio virus in Uttar Pradesh and the risk it poses to other countries;

(b) whether out of 280 polio cases detected in India, 254 are from UP only;

(c) if so, whether UP blames the Centre for spurt of polio virus in the State; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take to reduce the polio cases in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The UN Secretary General, had written a letter to the Prime Minister on 22.8.2006 about the outbreak of polio in some parts of Western Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (d) 571 polio cases have been detected in the country till 1-12-2006, out of which 474 are from Uttar Pradesh. The increase in number of polio cases are due to an outbreak, occurred in Moradabad and JP Nagar of Western Uttar Pradesh during first half of 2006.

To achieve early interruption of polio transmission Government has intensified Supplementary immunization activities as listed below:—

- * Conducting consistent high quality supplementary immunization rounds in January, February, April and May, June, July, September and November 06 and planned National immunization rounds in the month of January and February 2007.
- * Monovalent oral polio vaccine 1 (mOPV1) are being used in the high risk districts and States to enhance immunity so that the presently circulating P1 virus can be interrupted.
- * Since polio virus type 3 circulation is limited to few districts of Moradabad region, an immunization round using Monovalent Oral Polio Vaccine 3 (mOPV3) is being taken up in 9 districts of Western Uttar Pradesh from 10 December 2006.
- * Enhance the immunity of newborn, a special drive to vaccinate newborn with mOPV1 within 72 hours of birth have been initiated in selected high-risk blocks of Moradabad district.

- * Social Mobilization activities are being intensified by involving the local influencers, community and religious leaders to improve community participation and acceptance of polio vaccine.
- * The ASHA workers are also now being fully involved in Pulse Polio Immunization especially in tracking of newborn and missed children and vaccinating them during the monthly Health day.

(c) No such instance has come to the notice of the Central Government.

Polio in Maharashtra

1891. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some polio infected patients were found in Maharashtra State in the current year;

(b) if so, the details of polio infected children, State-wise during the year 2005-06;

(c) whether it is a fact that the present advertisement campaign of polio eradication is grossly inadequate and ineffective.

(d) if so, what new steps his Ministry proposes to take in this regard; and

(e) what immediate action Government had taken or propose to take to eradicate polio virus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Four Virological positive polio cases have been detected in Maharashtra State in the current year.

(b) Details of polio cases reported during 2005 and 2006 are at Statement (See below).

(c) to (e) No Sir. Following actions are being taken to eradicate polio virus.

- * Conducted consistent high quality supplementary immunization rounds in January, February, April and May, June, July, September